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Children's Memorial Day bill headed to House

LANSING —The fourth Friday in April of each year will be designated as “Children’s Memorial Day” if a bill sponsored by Sen. Mike Goschka (R-Brant) makes its way to the governor for her signature. Senate Bill 224, which would memorialize all persons who have lost their lives before reaching 20 years of age, was passed by a unanimous 36-0 vote in the Michigan Senate today as Goschka gave a riveting speech on the Senate floor regarding the merits of the bill.

“There are people all over the state of Michigan who have lost loved ones for a variety of reasons,” Goschka said, “and all of them are tragic! This is a way in which all of us can truly honor the memory of all those young people who died prematurely and will not reach adulthood.

“Such a law would also give emotional healing and closure to countless thousands of families and friends of loved ones.” Goschka went on to add, “People all over this state have loved ones who have died prematurely due to a number of different reasons. Whether it be due to an accident, suicide, disease or some other cause, it is most appropriate that we set aside one day a year in which the state of Michigan officially remembers and honors all young people who have died.”

Each day in America, many children and youths under age 20 are victims of homicide and suicide, as well as from fatal accidents and terminal illnesses.

SB 224 encourages individuals and educational institutions, as well as social, community, religious and business organizations to remember and honor the memory of those young people who died prematurely and did not reach adulthood. The bill does not call for any work stoppages, missed school days or a paid day off.

The bill now goes to the House of Representatives for consideration.